

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 738

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Mr. Raymond Evans and the late Mrs. JoAnn Evans upon their induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should specially recognize those outstanding citizens who are dedicated to promoting the importance of agriculture in our society; and

WHEREAS, agriculture has been a cornerstone of Wilson County since the county's founding in 1799, and those citizens involved in farming have always been a vital part of the community; and

WHEREAS, two such estimable individuals are Mr. Raymond Evans and his wife, the late Mrs. JoAnn Evans, who are being inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame on April 1, 2014, for their lifetime of work as farmers and agricultural advocates; and

WHEREAS, a native of Gladeville, Mr. Evans is a 1947 graduate of Lebanon High School, where he was a member of FFA; and

WHEREAS, an early bloomer, Mr. Evans began farming while still in high school, raising goats, sheep, and hogs, and he even started his own herd of dairy cattle; and

WHEREAS, JoAnn Lassiter was a graduate of White House High School and Martin Methodist College; she and Raymond Evans were joined in matrimony in March of 1968, and they enjoyed more than forty-one years of marital bliss until Mrs. Evans' passing in August of 2009; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Evans quit working in the public sector shortly after their marriage, and together the Evanses operated a dairy farm for nearly twenty years; in April of 1976, they sold their dairy herd and began raising beef cattle, tobacco, and crops for truck farming instead, growing as many as 7,000 tomato plants some years; and

WHEREAS, through truck farming, Mr. and Mrs. Evans became active in Nashville Food Fairs and were members of the organization for more than thirty-three years; Mr. Evans served as president of Nashville Food Fairs on four occasions; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as a dairy farmer, Mr. Evans was a Kraft Patron, a member of the Nashville Grade-A Milk Producers, and served as president of the Young Farmers and Homemakers; and

WHEREAS, he was also a longtime member of the Wilson County Livestock Association and the Tennessee Fur Harvesters Association; he served on the Wilson County Soil Commission; and he appeared in the film *Billy Graham: The Early Years*; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being a full-time farmer, Mrs. JoAnn Evans also kept busy as a full-time homemaker; she was a devoted mother to their four children, volunteered in every capacity at Southside Elementary School during their years there, and even kept serving as the school's PTO treasurer long after her youngest child was in high school; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Evans possessed a generous and loving spirit, which she exhibited by sharing her knowledge of agriculture with second graders on Farm Day; and

WHEREAS, for many years, Mr. and Mrs. Evans were members of Gladeville United Methodist Church, where Mrs. Evans faithfully taught Sunday School; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame honors those dedicated citizens who committed their lives to developing and maintaining the highest standards and principles, and it is fitting that this General Assembly honor Mr. Raymond Evans and the late Mrs. JoAnn Evans for their valuable service to agriculture and the farming community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Mr. Raymond Evans and the late Mrs. JoAnn Evans on the occasion of their induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame, as we reflect fondly upon their many contributions to upholding the agricultural traditions of Wilson County and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.